

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04 /059 W
-----127716 231003Z /21

R 230730Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6973
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 2366

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE UNIVERSITY/STUDENT SITUATION/MILITARY
LEADERS MEET

REF: JAKARTA 2202 (DTG 170845Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: REGISTRATION FOR THE NEW TERM AT ITB IS
PROCEEDING OFF-CAMPUS, SO FAR WITHOUT INCIDENT, WHILE THE
MILITARY PRESENCE AT BANDUNG UNIVERSITIES HAS BEEN SUB-
STANTIALLY REDUCED. RUMORED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
IN JAKARTA FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, BUT SPORADIC DEMONSTRATIONS
HAVE BEEN STAGED IN JOGJAKARTA. MORE STUDENTS HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING THE FUGITIVE LEADERS OF THE UI
STUDENT COUNCIL. THE ARMED FORCES HELD ITS REGULAR
"LEADERSHIP MEETING" FEBRUARY 22-23, WITH ABRI COMMANDER
PANGGABEAN CHARGING EXTERNAL MEDDLING IN INDONESIA'S AFFAIRS.
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END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOVERNMENT HAS FINESSED A POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION
WITH DISSIDENT STUDENTS OF THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
(ITB) BY STAGING REGISTRATION FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL TERM
OFF-CAMPUS, AT THE OFFICES OF THE RECTORIUM, RATHER THAN
AT THE STILL SEALED-OFF CAMPUS. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED

THAT, BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY'S REGISTRATION, ABOUT A THIRD OF ITB'S 1200 NEW STUDENTS HAD REGISTERED, WITHOUT INCIDENT OR PROBLEM. RE-REGISTRATION FOR UPPERCLASS STUDENTS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 25, WITH THOSE STUDENT LEADERS STILL AT LARGE INSISTING UPPER-CLASSMEN WILL BOYCOTT THE REGISTRATION. THE MILITARY PRESENCE AT ITB AND OTHER BANDUNG CAMPUSES HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED, AND THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE REPORTED STUDENT ACTIVITY IN THAT CITY DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS.

3. RUMORS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN JAKARTA ON FEBRUARY 21-22 FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, THOUGH THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22 WHEN UNKNOWN PARTIES POSTED WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE BOGUS NOTICES THAT THE UI RECTOR HAD ORDERED THE UNIVERSITY CLOSED. THE NOTICES WERE APPARENTLY ORIGINALLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY, WHO FAILED TO APPEAR FOR INTER-SESSIONAL CLASSES STILL BEING HELD IN SOME COURSES. PAMPHLETS HAD BEEN PASSED OUT AT SOME JAKARTA HIGH SCHOOLS IN RECENT WEEKS URGING JOINT UI-HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATIONS, TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 21-22, AND THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE PAMPHLETS ADDED CREDENCE TO THE ALLEGED CLOSURE OF UI.

4. SEVERAL OF THE MOST PROMINENT UI STUDENT LEADERS SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT SINCE JANUARY 20 CRACKDOWN
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HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED, INCLUDING STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LUKMAN HAKIM. IN PART BECAUSE OF THOSE ARRESTS, STUDENT SOURCES FROM UI TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR AGGRESSIVE STUDENT MOVES IN JAKARTA IN THE COMING DAYS. ONE SAID THAT STUDENTS FELT THAT, WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP SO BADLY DEPLETED, FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS OR CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREMATURE AND DANGEROUS. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, HOWEVER, STUDENTS INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR ACTIVITIES AFTER THE MPR SESSION, WHEN GOVERNMENT SECURITY WILL PROBABLY BE SLACKENED.

5. MEANWHILE, IN JOGJAKARTA, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF SMALL STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS, CENTERED ON THE CAMPUSES OF THE INDONESIAN ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY (UII) AND GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY (GMU). THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT SO FAR OCCURRED AT GMU EARLY THIS WEEK, WHEN TROOPS AND POLICE CALLED OUT TO MONITOR A STUDENT "STUDY GROUP" GATHERING WERE REPORTEDLY CURSED AT AND STONED BY STUDENTS. THERE WAS NO DIRECT RESPONSE BY THE MILITARY, BUT A NUMBER OF UII AND GADJAH MADA STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. ACCORDING

TO A MOSLEM POLITICIAN IN JAKARTA WHO HAS A CLOSE FRIEND
WORKING FOR GMU'S RECTOR, THAT RECTOR HAS BEEN STERNLY
WARNED BY LOCAL SECURITY OFFICIALS TO KEEP ORDER ON
HIS CAMPUS OR FACE A TOUGHER MILITARY CRACKDOWN. PERHAPS
IN RESPONSE TO THIS WARNING, THE GMU RECTOR ON
FEBRUARY 22 ISSUED A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR HIS STUDENTS TO
ESCHEW FURTHER DISSIDENCE AND RETURN TO NORMAL ACADEMIC
PURSUITS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 2366

6. THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI) HELD ITS ANNUAL "LEADERSHIP
MEETING" ON FEBRUARY 22-23 IN JAKARTA. THE MEETING,
USUALLY HELD IN MARCH BUT MOVED UP THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE
MPR SESSION, FEATURED AN ADDRESS BY ABRI COMMANDER
GEN. PANGGABEAN, IN WHICH HE CHARGED A NUMBER OF UNNAMED
COUNTRIES WITH VARIOUS KINDS OF INTERFERENCE IN
INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AMONG THE "EXTERNAL
FORCES" WHICH PANGAABEAN SINGLED OUT WERE: "A CERTAIN
FOREIGN COUNTRY WHICH GIVES SIGNS OF BEGINNING TO AID
EXTREMIST GROUPS IN INDONESIA WHO WANT TO OVERTHROW
THE GOVERNMENT;" "EFFORTS BY A CERTAIN COUNTRY TO
INFILTRATE EX-PKI GUERILLA LEADERS BACK INTO INDONESIA
AND SEND OVERSEAS CHINESE TO INDONESIA THROUGH AN
INSTITUTE LOCATED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY;" "EFFORTS BY

OUTSIDE ELEMENTS, BOTH THROUGH INTERNATIINAL AND PRIVATE CHANNELS, WHO WANT TO INFLUENCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY;" AND "THE EXISTENCE OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY WHICH IS ACTIVELY GATHERING STRATEGIC DATA IN THE ECONOMIC, MINING AND OCEAN RESOURCES FIELD THROUGH SCIENTIFIC STUDIES." THE MILITARY LEADERS WILL BE GIVEN A SEND-OFF MESSAGE TOMORROW BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO.

7. COMMENT. PANGGABEAN IS OBVIOUSLY RELYING ON THE TIME-HONORED STRATEGY OF CONJURING UP FOREIGN BOGEYMEN TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE HOME-GROWN VARIETY. MASTERS

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